

Message Text

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ACTION PRS-01

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 PA-01
NSCE-00 SS-15 SSO-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00
INRE-00 /070 W
-----120684 091316Z /43

O 091218Z DEC 77
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2681
INFO AMCONSUL ALEXANDRIA
AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS IMMEDIATE
USINT BAGHDAD
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
USMISSION SINAI
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
USIA WASHDC

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FOR S/PRS AND PA
DEPARTMENT PASS NSC FOR DR. BRZEZINSKI AND
WHITE HOUSE FOR MR. POWELL
USINFO FOR IOP/M

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EG XF OVIP (VANCE, CYRUS R.)
SUBJECT: REPORTING/REACTION ON SEC VISIT AND PEACE
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- PROCESS

REF: (A) CAIRO 20669, (B) CAIRO 20637

SUMMARY. MEDIA DEC 9 LARGELY DEVOTED TO PRO-SADAT RALLY
DEC 8 AND FULL COVERAGE HIS INTERVIEW WITH N.Y. TIMES,
WHICH WAS FORCEFUL RESTATEMENT OF KNOWN VIEWS. OTHER

MAIN STORY WAS HUSSEIN VISIT WITH KING SEEN MOVING TOWARD EGYPTIAN POSITION. MODEST COVERAGE OF SECRETARY'S ARRIVAL. RETURN OF ISRAELI BODIES COVERED SEPTTEL. END SUMMARY.

1. DOMESTIC SUPPORT FOR SADAT. PRESS OVERWHELMINGLY DEVOTED TO COVERAGE OF "MAMMOTH POPULAR RALLY" IN SUPPORT OF SADAT PEACE INITIATIVE (REF A). HEADLINES AND PHOTOS LEFT LITTLE FRONT PAGE SPACE FOR OTHER NEWS.

2. SADAT SPEAKS. CONSIDERABLE SPACE ALSO DEVOTED TO FULL TEXT OF SADAT NEW YORK TIMES INTERVIEW. HEADLINES FOCUSED ON "SOVIET HYPOCRISY." WE ALSO FIND WORTH NOTING:

- A. REJECTIONISTS. CLEAR REAFFIRMATION THAT HIS BREAK IN RELATIONS NOT A PLOY AND REESTABLISHMENT WILL DEPEND ENTIRELY ON THEM. SADAT'S SELF-CONFIDENT AND PATRONIZING VIEW WAS EVIDENT (AND PICKED UP IN EDITORIAL FLAGELLATION DEC 9).
- B. OTHER ME PARTIES. SADAT MINDFUL OF INTERESTS OF OTHERS, BUT THEY MUST PURSUE THEIR INTERESTS THEMSELVES. HE IS WORKING FOR EGYPTIAN INTERESTS AND WILL DO SO "TO THE END OF THE ROAD". IMPLICATION IS THERE WILL BE BARGAINING WITH ISRAEL, BUT NOT WITH OTHER ARABS.
- C. U.S. SADAT STRESSED IMPORTANCE THAT U.S., WHOSE PRESENCE AS FRIENDLY INTERMEDIARY TO OVERCOME OBSTACLES, CLEAR NECESSITY. SADAT HAS "FACILITATED ITS ROLE". U.S. LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SUPPORT, IN DISTINCTION TO LEADERSHIP OF PEACE PROCESS, REMAINS ESSENTIAL.

- D. USSR. SOVIETS HAVE MISSED THEIR CHANCE. SADAT DID NOT SEEK EXCLUDE THEM FROM PEACE PROCESS, IN FACT INVITED THEM TO CAIRO, BUT USSR USING ITS LIMITED INFLUENCE TO UNDERMINE PEACE PROCESS INSTEAD. HE, REGION, AND PEACE PROCESS CAN DO WITHOUT THEM.
- E. PLO. PLO COULD PLAY ROLE, BUT IN FACT IT UNABLE TO BECAUSE THEY "WEAK LINK" DOMINATED BY SOVIETS AND SYRIA. SADAT CHALLENGED PLO (I.E. ARAFAT) TO JOIN IN PEACE PROCESS OR SEE OTHER PALESTINIANS MOVING IN TO LEADERSHIP VACUUM. (COMMENT: PRESS REPORTS 100 WEST BANK DIGNITARIES DUE ARRIVE DEC 9 "TO EXPRESS PALESTINIAN SUPPORT FOR SADAT.")
- F. GENEVA. MEPC SHOULD NOT CONVENE UNTIL IT CAN MOVE DIRECTLY TO QUESTIONS OF SUBSTANCE. MEANWHILE, IN CAIRO, U.S. MUST ASSIST IN HELPING SADAT SETTLE PROCEDURAL QUESTIONS.

2. HUSSEIN VISIT. PRESS REPORTS TALKS WITH HUSSEIN UPBEAT, LARGELY BECAUSE OF KING'S OWN POSITIVE REMARKS

(ADMIRATION FOR SADAT'S COURAGEOUS PURSUIT OF JUST AND
PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT; STATEMENT THAT TWO LEADERS DISCUSSED
"PALESTINIAN HOPES AND ASPIRATIONS"; AND BELIEF THAT "PEACE
WILL BE REALIZED SOON". PRESS AVOIDING ANY HINT THAT
SADAT HAS SMOOTHED WAY FOR HUSSEIN'S VISIT. NEVERTHELESS,
VISIT WILL FURTHER BELIEF THAT HUSSEIN
PREPARING FOR PARTICIPATION IN CAIRO CONFERENCE.

3. SECRETARY'S VISIT. SECRETARY'S ARRIVAL CONTINUES TO
BE TREATED IN LOW KEY. AHAM, FOR INSTANCE, DEVOTED ONE
COLUMN TO HEADLINE "VANCE TO START CAIRO TALKS TODAY"
WHICH EXPECTED TO DEAL WITH PARTICIPATION OF "OTHER
PARTIES", U.S. ROLE (I.E. NOW THAT SADAT IN DRIVER'S SEAT)
AND VANCE TALKS IN OTHER CAPITALS. PRESIDENT CARTER QUOTED
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THAT U.S. NOT READY GIVE UP ON GENEVA CONFERENCE, AND

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ATHERTON THAT ISRAEL MUST "SHOW FLEXIBILITY EQUAL TO THAT
OF EGYPT." EILTS

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Message Attributes

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Sent Date: 09-Dec-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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